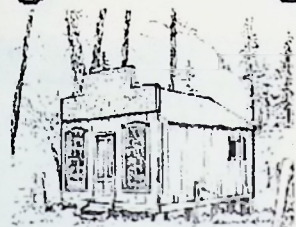


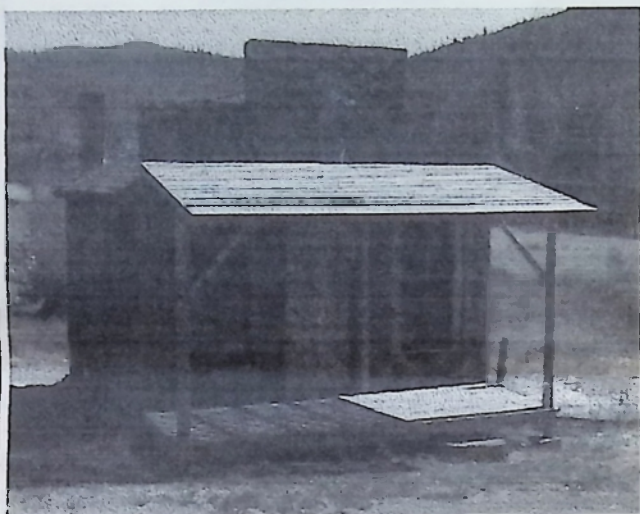
Newsletter of the

# BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

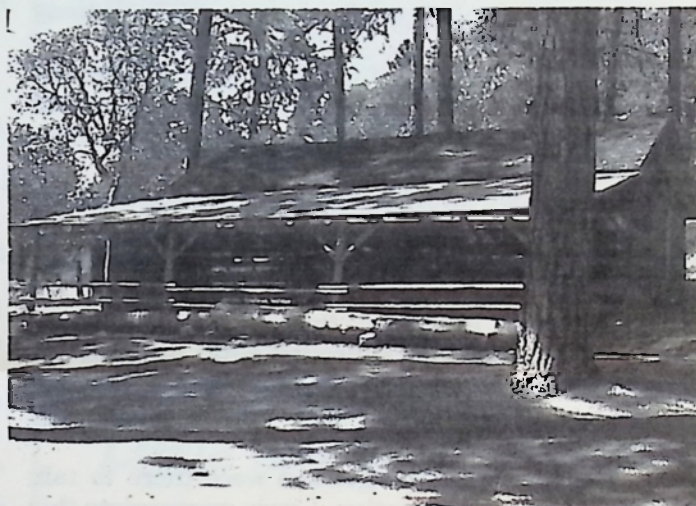
August 2002



## PRESENTING THE RESTORED POST OFFICE AND COOKHOUSE



After months of planning and actual reconstruction, the work on the Post Office and Cookhouse has been completed. The reconstructed Post Office porch was duplicated from a photo taken in the 1950s, before the old porch fell down. At



the Cookhouse, the final step was to replace the overhang which was in danger of collapsing. Earlier we replaced the rotting floor and restored the windows which had been there in an earlier time. Thanks to everyone who helped!

## Another Fire Threatens Buncom's Neighborhood

A lightning strike on the evening of July 13 started a wildfire that swept across the hills to the north of Buncom and threatened many of our neighbors and friends.

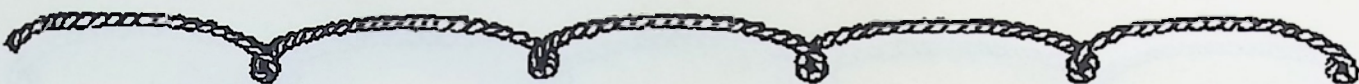
The fire, known as the Squires Fire, burned some 3,000 acres and while it was about a mile from Buncom at its closest, it burned right up to several homes along Sterling Creek Road. Fortunately, outstanding and dedicated work by firefighters, property owners and neighbors saved

every single threatened home.

It was only a year ago that another fire, the Quartz Fire, burned 6,000 acres farther up the Little Applegate Valley.

Our thanks go out to the Oregon Division of Forestry, Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9, the BLM, Sheriff's Department and State Police, and all the crews that worked so hard to control the fire.





## THE "NEW" BUNCOM ATTRACTS CROWD FOR BUNCOM DAY

All the improvements made to Buncom over the past year were on display for the first time at Buncom Day on May 25, and the verdict was overwhelmingly in favor.

The restoration brought a renewed sense of place to our favorite ghost town.

We don't know how many people attended, but we know that the Upper Applegate Grange served 480 meals, so we're guessing that the crowd was 700-800, which makes it one of the biggest Buncom Days. Cars, as usual, were parked along the road in all directions.

A special part of Buncom Day this year was participation by Cub Scout Pack 18. They marched in the parade and held their annual graduation ceremony in the afternoon.

Many old favorites were back, too, such as Liz Henderson and her wagon, Larry Goins and his gold panning, and the always-great music from Good Comp'ny.

We owe a special thanks to Rose Marie Leever, whose year-long collection effort brought our Country Store to a new level of magic for our pre-owned wares. She was ably assisted by husband Dick and Phyllis Runals.

Our government agencies were there to talk about fire and fire prevention -- very appropriate this year in view of subsequent events (see Page 1). In fact, we got a foretaste of what was to come when the Applegate Fire District and BLM fire trucks were called away in the middle of our festivities to fight a small grass fire.

The parade was the biggest ever, thanks to many participants from the neighborhood and Ruch School, as well as the Cubs.

Phil Clark and Joe Schattler, whose expert talents were responsible for the restoration work on the buildings, were there. The day was also marked by the planting of an heirloom rose bush between the Bunkhouse and the Post Office.

The "Buncom Register" was back to record people's memories of Buncom and their comments on our town today, and some of those will appear in the newsletter over the next several issues.

We also posted the "Where are you from?" maps again this year, and visitors marked seven states besides Oregon, as far away as New York and Florida.

### ***Buncom Day Photos on Website***

Photos of Buncom Day 2002 are up on our website. Go to:

[www.buncom.org](http://www.buncom.org)

### **Buncom Featured in Sunset Magazine**

Sunset, the Magazine of Western Living, featured Buncom as part of an article about gold mining in Southern Oregon in its July issue.

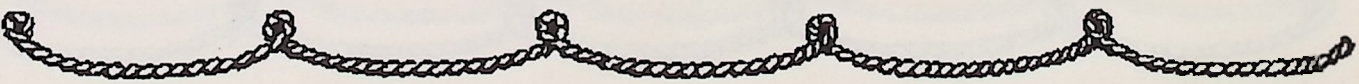
Society Director J.B. Roberts and the Cookhouse (pre-remodel) were the featured photo used to illustrate the article.

The text talks about Jacksonville and mentions the Gin Lin Trail, McKee Bridge and the McKee Bridge Store and Restaurant.

About Buncom it says:

"To return to Jacksonville, continue down the valley and turn right onto Little Applegate Road. Three miles up this road, you'll come to the ghost town of Buncom. Its post office, general store and cookhouse have been preserved, thanks to the efforts of Reeve and Lyn Hennion, whose land it stands on, and other local residents. One of them, rancher J.B. Roberts, says that Buncom provides a link to the past in a part of Oregon that is receiving an influx of new residents. 'The intent,' Roberts says, 'was to keep the town as a symbol of what the old-timers hold as part of their lives and what the newcomers are aspiring toward.'"

We're delighted that Sunset recognizes the treasure we've known about all along.





# THE BUNCOM REGISTER

*Here are more writings from the Buncom Register gathered at Buncom Day.*

My grandmother moved to the place where we now live in 1937. I remember visiting as a little boy, when Sterling Creek Road was a muddy track. Little Applegate was a narrow gravel road.

I remember mining with hydraulic along Little Applegate, blasting the side hills with powerful jets of water.

Lillian Hukill had a house across from Buncom, and owned all the property where Hennions now live, and Buncom.

-- Fred Straube

Buncom is really cool. I hope its here next year.

-- Kristin

Buncom is really cool ghost town. I like it lots. An old town brought to life.

-- Jeff Macy

I think that this is a great place.

-- Lauren.

Please do not destroy Buncom. Because Buncom is history. Buildings were here long long time. I believe it means a lot to people who live around here in the valley. Means a lot to me, that's for sure. Don't destroy history.

-- Carole W.

As a kid I used to play in these old buildings, here at Buncom. What a vast improvement. Keep up the good work.

I am 3rd generation off the Applegate. My father was born in Ruch.

-- Harry Bostwick

My older brother, Tom, knows the details, but my great-grandfather was Alexander, or was it Henry?, Ankeny. My grandmother was born in Galice while her father was involved with the mining in this area.

-- Robin Emmens



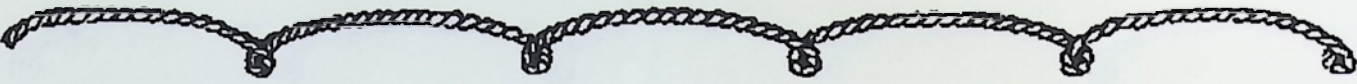
*For several days during the Squires Fire in July, Buncom served as a fire information center where residents could find out the latest information.*

## More About Little Applegate School

*In our last issue, we printed some reminiscences about Little Applegate School. Society member Colista Bailey offers her own recollections about those school days.*

My memory tells me that there were more than 4 kids the last year of school but I can't put names on all. One was Jean Houston who lived on the old Munsell place that joined the Crump land right behind the school house. Jean married a Quackenbush, whose family owned the Fire Fighter fire extinguisher place on McAndrews Road in Medford ... I remember my Mother used to make hot soup and hot cocoa for the kids' lunches and carry it to school in a big thermos jug with those big thick mugs in a box, then the teacher would take them back for her to wash after school. (Wouldn't the health dept. go bonkers over that now?)





## **THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS**

Robert S. & Cornelia Gray, Torrance, CA  
Sharon & Dennis Harvey, Danville, CA  
Daniel Newberry & Caroline Spear, Jacksonville, OR  
OR Community Foundation, Portland, OR  
Larry Goins, Ashland, OR  
Eric & Danita Harwood, Jacksonville, OR  
Lillian Kusick, Jacksonville, OR  
Rita McDonagh, Jacksonville, OR  
Joe Milich, Medford, OR  
Don & Luana Perry, Medford, OR  
Peter & Karen Salant, Jacksonville, OR  
Joe & Jeanne Schattler, Jacksonville, OR  
Allen & Lillian Stewart, Jacksonville, OR  
Chad & Trish Teresi, Jacksonville, OR  
Bill & Cate Yocum, Ashland, OR  
Barbara & Bro Mumblo, Jacksonville, OR

## **Can Anybody help?**

Constance Neal saw our website and e-mailed:

Has there been any connection made between original Buncom Residents to anyone east in North Carolina? I live in Asheville, NC, Buncombe County. I get an eerie feeling just from a website. I LOVE the little Ghost town of Buncom, only from the pictures. I say I just love it there. Those were transient days, I hoped that the two names Buncom and Buncombe might connect. I might try to find it, send me any name or link to a settler from North Carolina, if you can.

If you know of any, e-mail [buncom@aol.com](mailto:buncom@aol.com) or call Reeve Hennion at 899-7656 and we'll see that the information gets to her.

## **A SPECIAL THANKS ...**

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

G. Greeley Wells  
Fred & Joyce Vanderhoof  
Chad & Trish Teresi  
Scotty & Connie Gray  
Peter & Karen Salant  
Albert Drexel  
Reeve & Lyn Hennion

## **DIRECTORS**

Reeve Hennion, President 899-7656  
Lyn Hennion

J.B. Roberts, Secretary 899-1125  
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805  
Connie Fowler

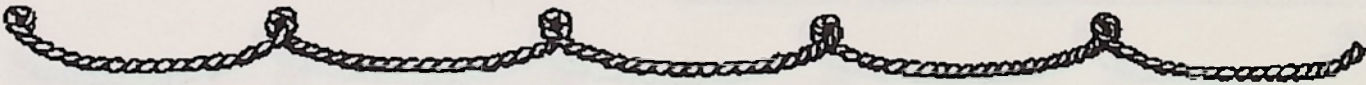
The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:  
[www.buncom.org](http://www.buncom.org)

To join the Society, send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

### ***E-mail from a member:***

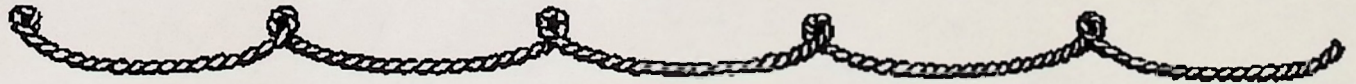
*Great photos (of Buncom Day) and another very enjoyable day. It's a chance to see new faces and catch up on the news from the "regulars."*





***Thanks to our Buncom Day Door Prize  
Contributors:***

***Grange Coop  
Sunrise Cafe  
McKee Bridge Restaurant  
Applegate Florist  
Tiff's Hallmark Store  
Klamath First Federal  
Natalie Zeigler  
Outpost Supply  
Craterian Theater  
Britt Festivals***





**BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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